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MRS. EDWIN T. RICE  
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The Böhlers are going  
to South America  
to remain  
there. We  
shall miss  
them.

Kittens are  
much as  
usual, I

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garden.

Dearest Darling & Kathleen,  
I think of you both so  
much and very, very often wish  
you were here to talk over this  
and that. You can't know  
how I miss you, and what  
a difference it has made in  
our winter not having you  
here. All the lovely times we  
had in your beautiful apartment  
are a thing of the past, it is  
sad. I have just been



reading again Darling's last letter, and the letter written on the Christmas card. What a dreadful person I am not to have answered either, ages ago. I certainly was not for lack of thinking about you, & wishing to see you.

I wonder whether you still have the two pussy cats, and whether they continue their games of throwing everything down?

The Fitches told me they had heard Kathleen play (I don't know in which city) and

tell me of her success, and of her many pupils - the best pupils in Canada, and that Kathleen taught all the real Talens. But I expected all that, & was not surprised. The Fitches also said that Darling was perfectly well again after the ~~the~~ dreadful time in the hospital. It is such an awful pity that you had to go through that experience. The war conditions make life bad enough, without having to be ill besides.



I have seen the Fitches several  
times & like them so much.  
They came here to a supper;  
and <sup>also</sup> to a musical to hear  
a very fine viola player,  
Laurie Roud; then they very  
kindly took me to the  
Berseheim opera and another  
time to lunch. Unfortunately  
that is about as often as one  
sees most people here.

I did not go up to any of  
Willem's funny concerts last  
summer, nor to their house,  
and consequently have not



2/1  
lots of  
care to  
Jan both.  
affecting  
Margaret.

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laid eyes on them for nearly two  
years. I regret very much that  
I have not seen the Welses nor  
the Idlers this winter, but shall  
try to do so before the winter is  
over. We have not had so  
many people here this winter as  
usual, because we have been a  
little busy. Helen took a course  
in a machine shop to learn  
how to handle war machines;  
she hopes to work in a defense  
factory next winter. — I took



a course in operating a switchboard and now have my certificate as a "Competent Switchboard Operator & Receptionist" & it is a joke, because I am slow and not competent! At present I operate our switchboard for a few hours every day for practice, and if any of the help in our house is ill or stays away I may really be needed, as we <sup>winter</sup> are understaffed here. Next year I hope to be able to be of use, Red Cross or something. This was about the only thing I

could think of doing to help, as I have one bad eye. But I don't go out as I don't want to become familiar with the private lives of every one living in this house (I don't ~~mean~~ <sup>mean</sup> endorsing) they all expect the operator to know all their habits!

Men have played quarets madly this winter - (is playing now) and has enjoyed it very much.

I have been pretty busy getting all the children ready for Edwin's visit about his musical recollections. There are twelve of them, & we are having them



privately printed & will send you  
a copy. at present we are  
doing the proof reading. Only four  
of the articles were finished & I  
have had some work getting the  
others into shape. Never having  
done such a thing, I am so  
slow, & many mistakes will  
escape me, I am afraid. It  
is sad that Edwin could not  
have finished the last one which  
he was just starting at the time  
of his death, on Mrs Coolidge &  
her music. — I will stop now,  
as I feel sorry for the poor censor  
if he has to read any more!